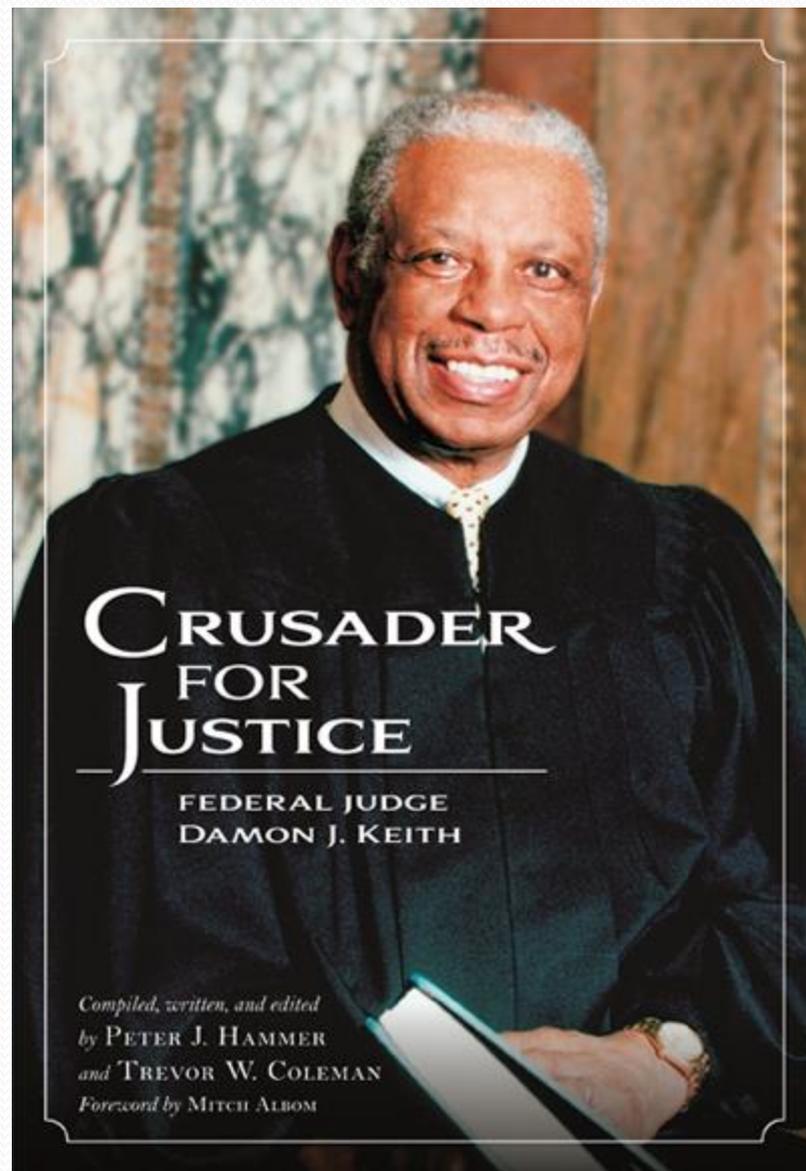


Detroit Board of Police Commissioners: 21st Century Police Reform

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CRUSADER FOR JUSTICE

FEDERAL JUDGE
DAMON J. KEITH

*Compiled, written, and edited
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Foreword by MITCH ALBOM*

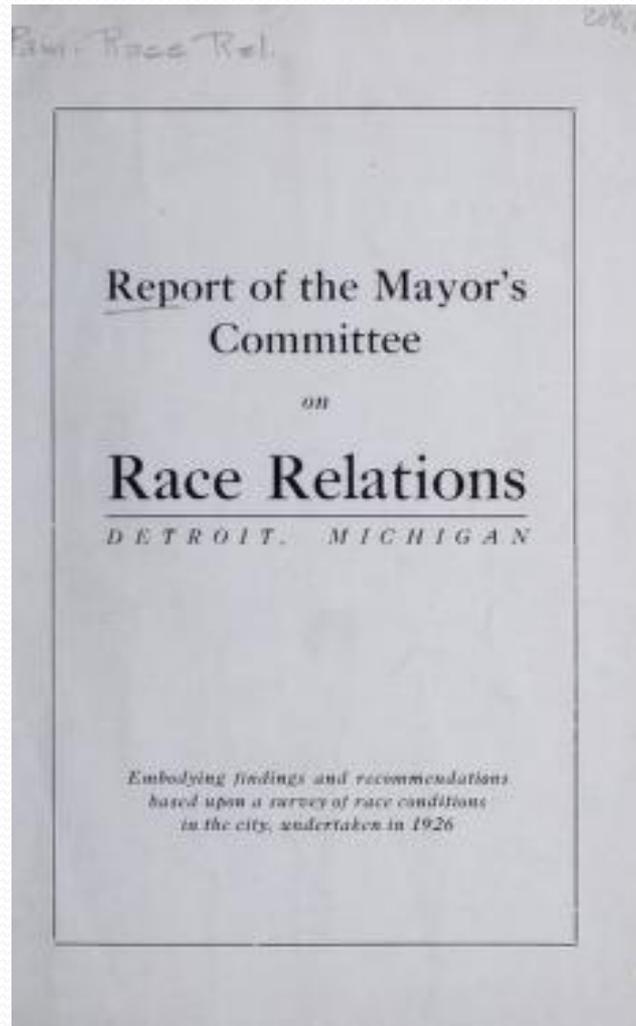
Why is civilian oversight so vital?

- Civilian oversight is essential to counter the racialized brutality inherent in traditional police institutions
- Civilian oversight is essential to transform policing and define new sources and practices of public safety
 - But, a deeper understanding of spatial-structural racism will be essential to this task

Civilian oversight was a response to history of racialized police violence

- Detroit racial unrest 1925
- Detroit Race Riot 1943
- Detroit Rebellion 1967
- STRESS early 1970s

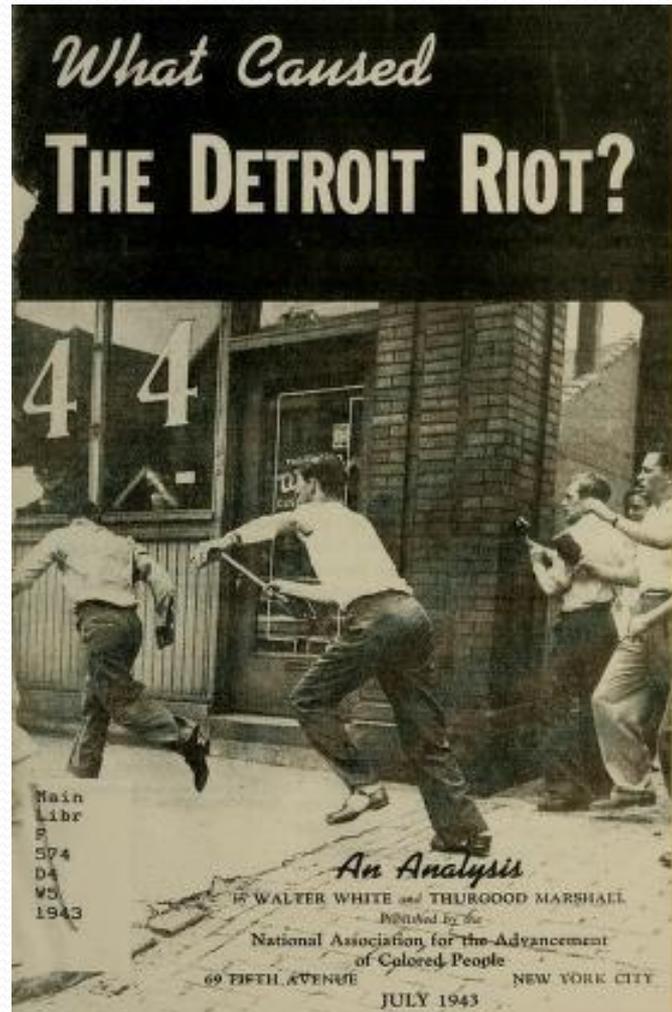
Detroit racial unrest 1925



Causes 1925 unrest

- Report of the Mayor's Committee on Race Relations Detroit Michigan (Reinhold Neibuhr, Chair) (1926)
 - Housing
 - **Crime and Police**
 - Education
 - Health
 - Recreation
 - Industry
 - Welfare and Community Organizations

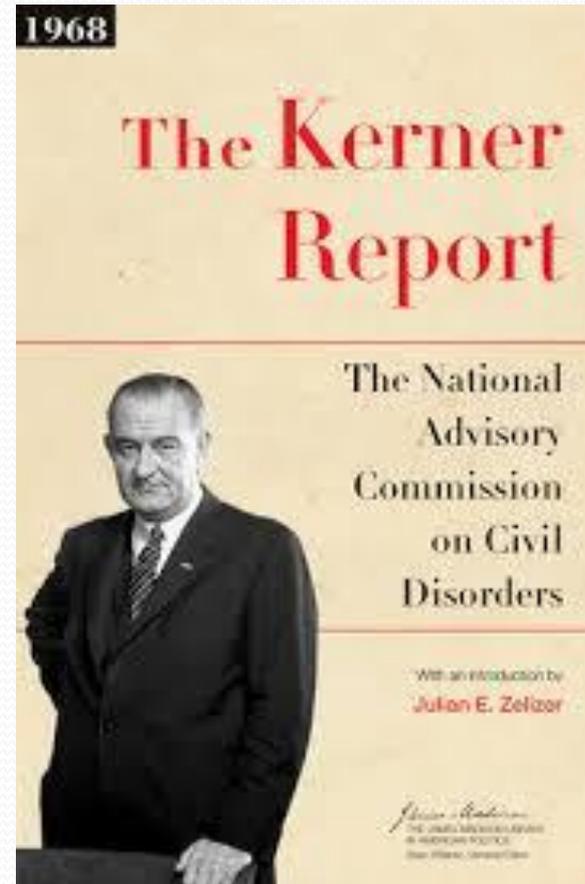
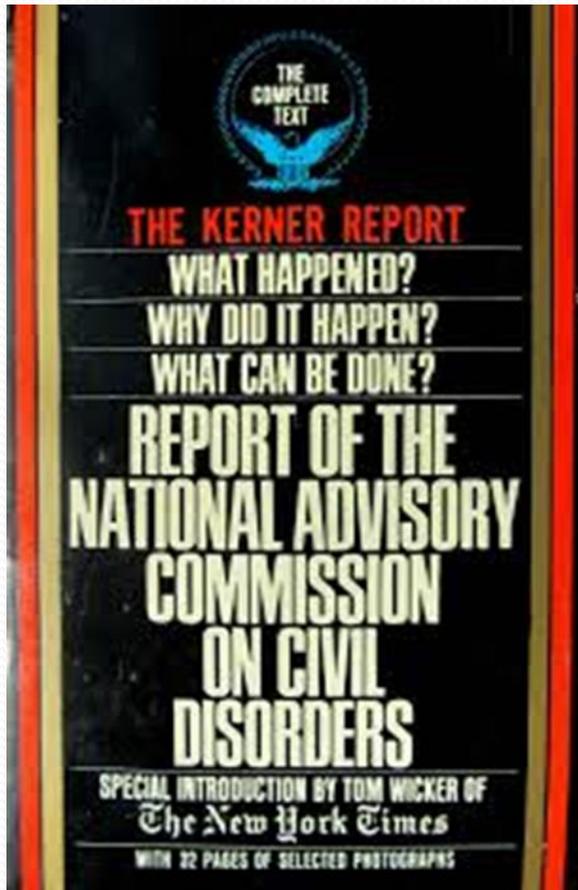
Detroit Race Riots 1943



Causes 1943 race riot

- What Caused the Detroit Riot? An Analysis (NAACP) (Walter White & Thurgood Marshall) (1943)
 - **Police Department**
 - Recreation
 - Education
 - Housing
 - Labor

Detroit 1967 rebellion



Causes 1967 rebellion

- Kerner Commission Report (1968)
 - First Level of Intensity
 1. **Police practices**
 2. Unemployment and underemployment
 3. Inadequate housing
 - Second Level of Intensity
 4. Inadequate education
 5. Poor recreation facilities and programs
 6. Ineffectiveness of the political structure and grievance mechanisms (deficit of democracy)

1974 Charter reform

- Stop The Robberies and Ensure Safe Streets (STRESS)
- Create Civilian Police Oversight Board (1974)
- Detroit leading in the process
- Edward J. Littlejohn
 - Law and Police Misconduct, U. Det. J. Urb. L., 1980
 - Civil Liability and the Police Officer: The Need for New Deterrents to Police Misconduct, - U. Det. J. Urb. L., 1980
 - The civilian police commission: a deterrent of police misconduct, U. Det. J. Urb. L., 1981

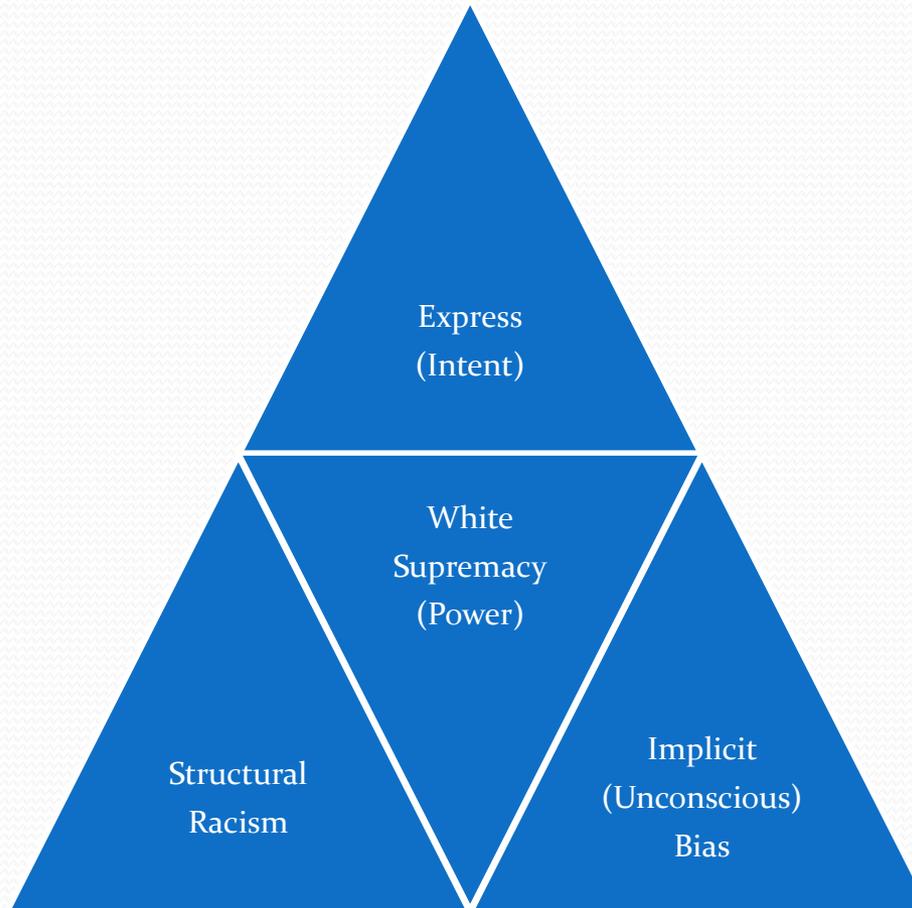
BOPC has tremendous authority

- Structural authority
 - Budgetary
 - Role in selecting Police Chief
 - Appoint civilian Director of Police Personnel
- Policy authority
- Civilian Complaints
- Police Department Personnel

BUT civilian oversight is fragile and under constant siege

- Antithetical to traditional racialized police institutions
- Deficit of democracy in Detroit
 - Emergency Manager gutted BOPC 2013
 - Growth of “authorities” not democracy (Land Bank, Lighting Authority, GLWA)
- Working in a regional environment defined by spatial-structural racism
 - Police oversight must be more thoughtful and aware of the implications of how race and racism operates to undermine public safety

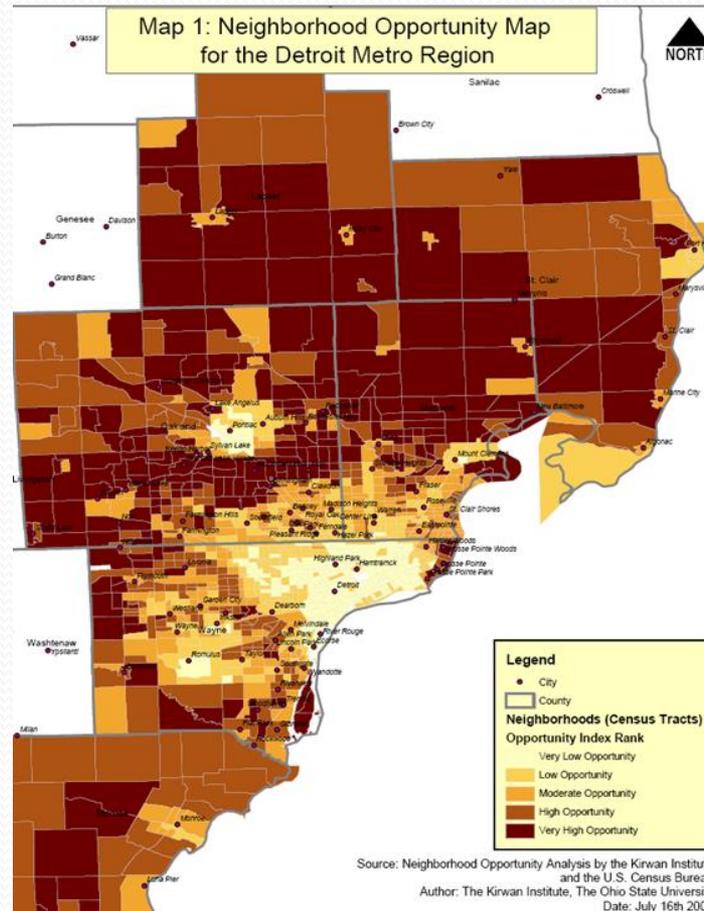
Structuralized Racialization (Verb)



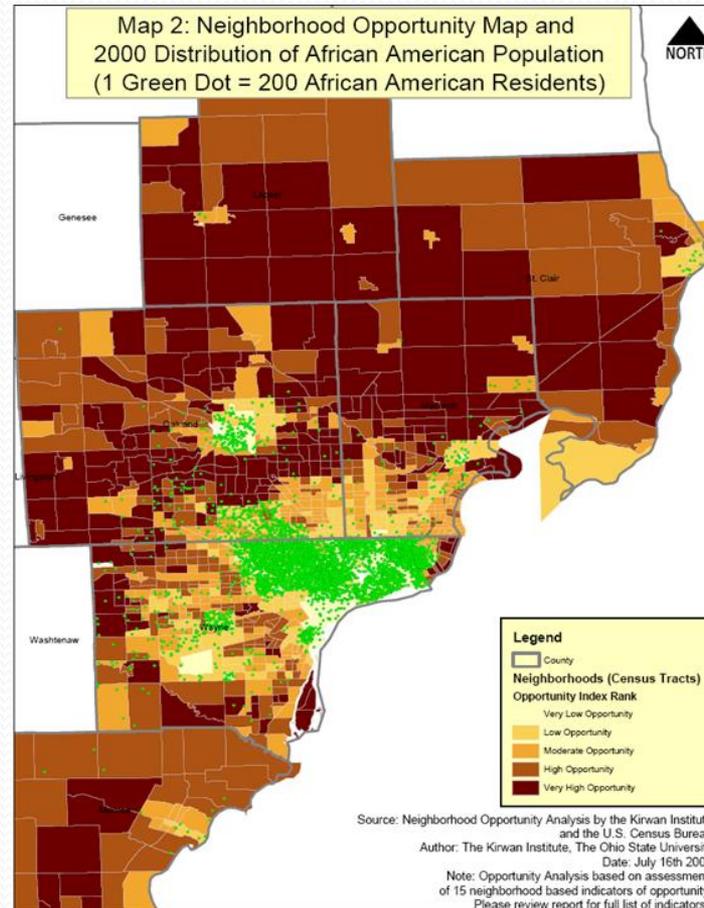
Spatial Racism in S.E. Michigan

- Michigan Roundtable-Kirwan Institute Opportunity Mapping
- Defining Opportunity
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Schooling
 - Health
 - Transportation
 - Food security
 - Living environment
- Mapping Opportunity

Segregation Wealth & Opportunity



Spatial Racism in S.E. Michigan



Impacts every social policy issue

- Food security
- Maternal health
- Public Transportation
- Access to health care
- **Physical safety**
- Quality of schools
- Job opportunities
- Childhood asthma
- **Municipal distress**
- Social services
- **Police Brutality**
- Childhood obesity
- **Emergency Management**
- Infant mortality
- Water shutoffs
- Tax foreclosures
- Life expectancy
- **Mass incarceration**

We are living in an historic moment

- The name “George Floyd” has come to symbolize the cumulative effect of four-hundred years of racism in America
- We face the dual pandemics of 1) police brutality **and** 2) the racially disparate impact of Covid-19
- These pandemics are interrelated
 - Covid 19: Intersection structural racism & policies of fiscal austerity
 - Police brutality: Intersection structural racism & militarization

How should BOPC respond?

- Traditional mission: Use tremendous powers of civilian oversight to restrain the abuses inherent in racialized police practices
- Transformative mission: Use the tremendous powers of civilian oversight re-envision and re-define the sources of public safety in Detroit

New thinking in a new era

- Racism declared a public health (safety) emergency
- What are real sources of safety?
 - Good housing
 - Good jobs
 - Good education
 - Good food
 - Good environment
 - (Detroit's Bill of Rights)
- Dollar test: what produces more safety – 1\$ for police or 1\$ in jobs, housing and education?

Thank you

